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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Structure and Function of the Sluzby Polsce (SP)

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED

DATE (OF INFO.)

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 5 MAR 1953

50X1-HUM

NO. OF PAGES 5

NO. OF ENCLS. 1

SUPP. TO 50X1-HUM
REPORT NO.

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1. "The Polish para-military organization known as Powszechna Organizacja Sluzby Polsce (SP) was established pursuant to legislation dated 12 February 1948. It has two chief functions:
 - (a) To prepare the Polish youth for their compulsory military service and to give them technical education.
 - (b) To act as an auxiliary organization in the Army's plans for mobilization.

During 1952 the second function was increased by many orders 'received in an underhand way' from the Ministry of Defense. The following information is dated autumn 1952.

"Structure of the SP"

2. "The SP has a bipartite internal structure. It consists of two separate branches, each developing separate activities and having different working methods. The duties and privileges of the officers, instructors and members of each branch differ. This split organization is unified in a special military command at the county level (województwo). These commands are subordinated in turn to the Headquarters of the SP, which is a division of the Ministry of National Defense.

Note: Attached as Enclosure (A) is a diagram of the SP organizational structure

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3. "The two separate branches subordinated to the military command may be termed:

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- (a) The 'territorial net' (sieć terytorialna):
This branch has primarily the character of a territorial administrative apparatus. It is divided into units at various levels: county (województwo), district (powiat), municipality (gmina) and villages or settlements (wieś or osada). The base of this

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structure is formed by the separate groups (hufiec) of SP members. All Polish boys and girls between 16 and 19 years of age automatically become members of hufiec.

(b) The training units (brygady):

This branch consists of groups for whom systematic training is obligatory. The groups are under strong discipline, and their members are treated virtually as soldiers during their terms of service. Special recruitments for the brygady are carried out among hufiec members of the third and fourth year. In practice, not all hufiec members are necessarily channeled through brygady. Generally only about 50% of the hufiec members are actually drafted into brygady during their entire period of SP membership.

"Duties of the 'Territorial Net'"

1. "The staff members of the territorial apparatus of the SP have the following duties:

- (a) To record the personal data of all Polish boys and girls between 16 and 19 years of age. These records must contain all details concerning changes of residence and places of education or work during the specified period.
- (b) To maintain close cooperation with the military organizations of the various national councils (Referaty Wojskowe Radnarodowych) and to maintain indirect cooperation, through the national councils, with the WKRs (Wojskowe Komisje Rejonowe). These activities are considered of vital importance because the personal data information supplied by the SP 'territorial net' is considered indispensable for keeping the Army mobilization plans up-to-date. Each spring a special Qualifying Commission is organized in each county. It consists of representatives of the SP district commands and representatives of the military sections of the district National Councils (Komisja Kwalifikacyjno-Rejestracyjna). All Polish boys of 19 years of age must appear before this Commission. Although the regular Military Recruitment Commission later checks candidates for compulsory military service, these SP territorial commission checks are obligatory.
- (c) To cooperate with the security system (the UB organization). Copies of all monthly reports prepared by the SP commands on county and district levels are sent to the respective UB posts. The UB also receives the lists of persons eligible for military draft. The SP prepares such lists, as do the military authorities. Further, the UB receives each quarter, special political opinions concerning the members of the permanent SP service staff and, if necessary, the regular members of the various SP hufiec.
- (d) To maintain close cooperation with the respective ZMP cells or local youth organizations regarding political training. Political lectures organized for SP members must be coordinated with the political schooling system of the Communist Party.
- (e) To supervise the training of hufiec members. This training consists of:
 1. Political instruction
 2. Military instruction:

Marksmanship; drill; grenade-throwing; map reading; anti-aircraft, anti-gas and anti-bacteriological warfare; fire drills; first aid.
 3. Sport

This is considered as preparation for the SPO competition (Odnaka: Sprawny do Pracy i Obrony), for boys and girls up to 16 years, and for the BSPO, the Award I class (Badz Sprawny do Pracy i Obrony).

The SP instructors are guided by two types of instruction books:

1. Poradnik Pracownika - A special pamphlet issued monthly by the national headquarters of the SP. Such pamphlets may be as long as 200 pages each. They contain instructions pertaining to all kinds of organizational or

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educational activities. All the Poradnik Pracownikas must be carefully filed in the SP offices as a source of future reference.

2. Regulaminy - The regular Army Manuals. These manuals are considered 'confidential' and must be kept under lock in the SP offices. Under no circumstances may a SP staff member take such a manual from his SP office or lend it to a hufiec member.

(f) To select recruits for the brygada. Each year the district SP commanders receive orders stating that a certain number of hufiec members must report for service in the brygada. This order is known as a Rozdzialnik. In the first stage the recruitment is 'voluntary' [See Paragraph 1]. If the number of volunteers is lower than that specified in the Rozdzialnik, a special district recruiting commission is formed under the SP district command. This commission consists of the secretaries of the local CP cells, the Chairman of the municipal National Council, the Chairman of the local ZMP [Polish Youth Union], the Chairman of the local cell of ZW. Samopomocy Chlopijskiej [Peasant Self Help Cooperative], the commander of the local SP hufiec, the Chairman of the local Liga Kobiet [Woman's League]. A representative of the SP district command presides as chairman of the special commission, which determines who shall receive draft letters. As a general rule the political affiliations of the boys' or girls' parents are deciding factors. The children of kulaks have 'priority' for Army service.

- (g) To prepare monthly reports on all activities of the territorial SP organization and on all activities and training in the individual hufiec. These reports are sent to:

1. Higher echelons of the SP.
2. The respective Communist Party cells.
3. The respective ZMP boards.
4. The respective UB posts.

On the date of the compulsory recruitment to the Army the district SP offices must file special reports with the military authorities. Recording charts must be submitted with such reports. The SP uses the same type of recording charts as the military authorities, though they vary in color - the SP using a dark pink chart, the military authorities using a dark yellow chart. The chart of each SP recruit lists his personal data and the political status both of himself and each member of his family. If a member of his family lives abroad, this is carefully noted. The charts must be kept up to date.

"Brygada vs Territorial Staff

5. "The staff of the brygada branch of the SP consists exclusively of military personnel attached to it as instructors.
6. "The staff of the 'territorial net' is hired mainly from the ZMP or Communist Party organizations. Most of the staff members are fairly young.

"Territorial Staff

7. "The staff members of the 'territorial net' are organized into two corps: Officers and NCOs.

(a) Officers:

| <u>SP Title</u> | <u>Insignia</u> | <u>Pay</u> |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Higher Instructor (starszy wykladowca) | One angle [sic] with one silver star | 691.50 zl. |
| Inspector | One angle with one silver star | 691.50 zl. |
| Deputy Commander of district or town | Angle with two silver stars | 721.--- zl. |
| Commander of district or town | Angle with three silver stars | 780.--- zl. |

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(b) NGOs

| <u>SP Title</u> | <u>Insignia</u> | <u>Pay</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Commander of a <u>Gmina</u> | Two silver stars | 450--560 zl. |
| 'Recording referees' | Three silver stars | 560 zl. |
| Supply 'referees' | Three silver stars | 560 zl. |

8. "The insignia are worn on the epaulettes. These are similar to the Soviet pagony-type. The epaulettes have a red border and a red stripe in the middle,



9. "All members of the SP staff are supposed to wear uniforms on duty. These uniforms consist of Soviet-type woolen shirts, buttoned to the belt; dark-blue woolen trousers with a red stripe along each trouser leg; and a dark-blue round cap with a dark-green ribbon. It is permissible to wear boots, but the trousers must still be dark blue. This uniform is worn with a leather belt. The coat is a regular military coat. During the summer a lightweight but strong ticking suit (field-type uniform) is worn. Members of the SP staff may buy all uniform parts at reduced prices and on an installment basis.
10. "Besides their regular pay and uniform allowance, staff members of the SP territorial net are entitled to a per diem allowance of 15 zl and an additional night allowance of 3 zl where necessary. As most of these staff members make frequent inspection tours the per diem arrangement guarantees them a fairly good income.

"Resources

11. "The SP organization has a rather limited budget. All facilities must be provided by the local ZMP cells or by local administrative offices. The SP offices are often accommodated in the buildings of other institutions. The local sporting grounds and recreation rooms of the ZMP or Communist Party are used for training and lectures. When a special need for funds arises, district and community SP units may obtain money from the county units only on special allocation.

"The Hufiec Groups

12. "The hufiec is a loose group of SP members. While a hufiec exists in each community, the hufiec as such is further divided into plutony in each village (gromada) of the community and again into druzyny in each settlement (kolonia) of the community.
13. "Training meetings, usually five or six hours long, take place twice a month in all plutony and druzyny. Both theoretical and practical instruction is given. Hufiec activities are organized by the commander of the community SP together with the hufiec council (rada hufiec). To this body, which is purely voluntary and not counted in the permanent SP staff, belong all commanders of plutony and druzyny and the special referees for sport and culture (awiatlicowy).

"Rural vs Urban Organization

14. "The SP territorial net in country areas is subdivided into units which generally parallel the government administrative units. The SP branches in towns are not subdivided according to boroughs but according to schools and industrial or trade enterprises. [see Enclosure (A)]. A separate hufiec is organized in each municipal school or business institutions.

"Increasing Strictness

15. "Until 1951 the membership in the SP was nothing really disagreeable or bothersome for Polish boys and girls. The required meetings were few in comparison to those of other youth organizations; the work and training in the brygady units had a camping spirit.
16. "In early 1952 a new regulation was issued whereby SP members were required to spend six full months in brygady training. Discipline in the brygady is strong, the training intensive and the food poor. All youth serving in brygady must perform

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not only military training but labor service. At times the work is very heavy, e g in the coal mines. The SP members receive pay but only the bare minimum.

7. "This new regulation has caused much discontent. In contrast to previous years volunteer brygady enlistments have ceased. Recruitment is carried out on a compulsory basis exclusively.
8. "Absenteeism from local SP meetings has become quite frequent. According to law, each absentee SP member may be punished with up to three months' arrest or up to 1,500 zl in fines. Sentences are determined by the Military Sections of the local National Councils."

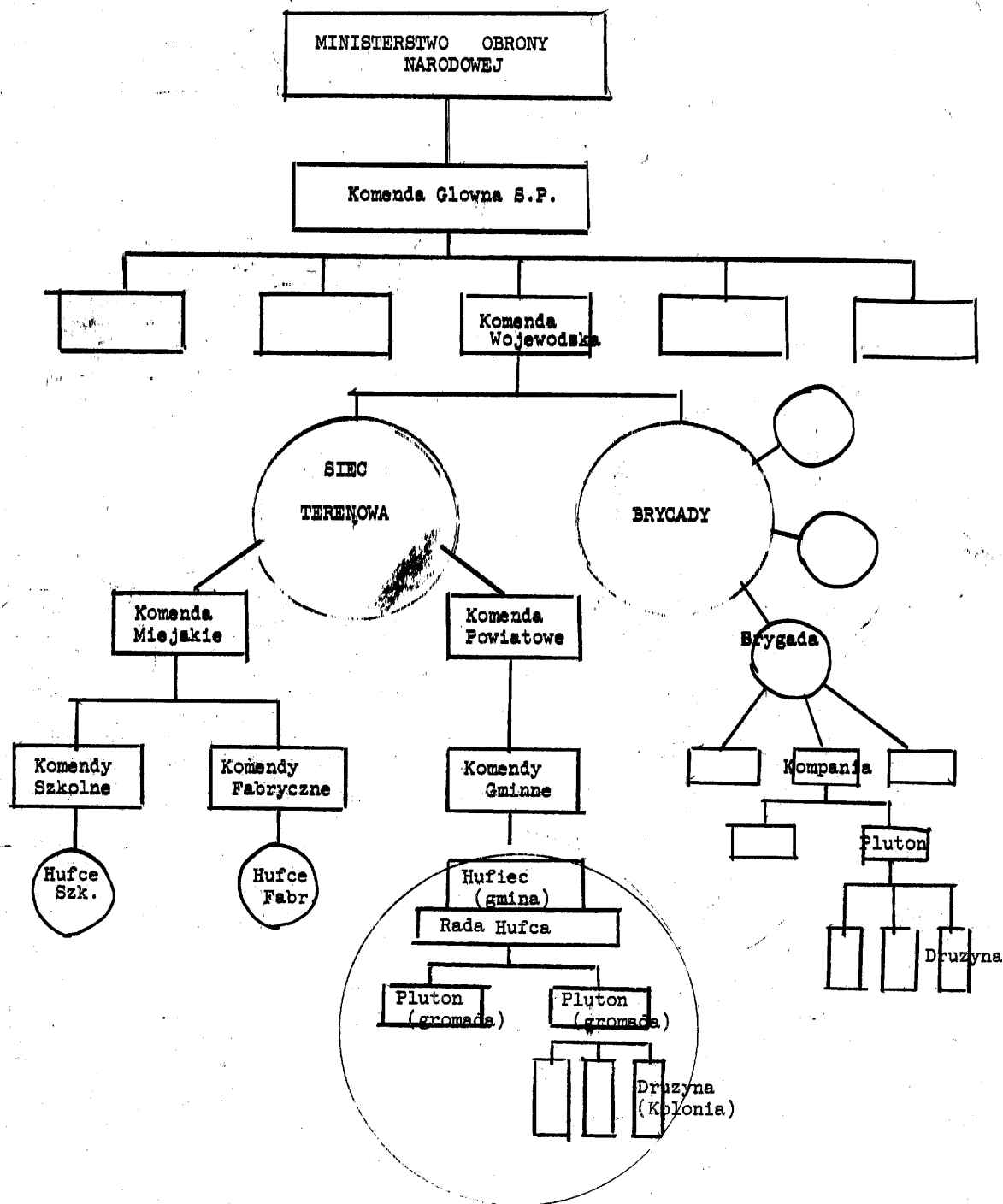
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ENCLOSURE (A): Diagram Showing Structure of the Sluzby Polase

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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Structure of the Sluzby Polsce

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